IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-76. Claims 1-12 previously cancelled.

77. (New) A method of separating a template extending in a first plane from a substrate extending in a second plane having an imprinting material disposed on a surface of said substrate, said method comprising:

forming an oblique angle between said first plane and said second plane; and

increasing a distance between said template and said substrate so that said template is spaced-apart from said substrate.

78. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein said angle is achieved by applying a force to said template to cause said template to be tilted with respect to said substrate, wherein said substrate remains stationary.

79. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein said angle is achieved by applying a force to said substrate to cause said substrate to be tilted with respect to said template, wherein said template remains stationary.

80. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein said increasing said distance is achieved by applying a force to said template, wherein said force is applied by a flexure system.

81. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 wherein said increasing said distance is achieved by applying a force to said template, wherein said force is applied by a piezo actuator, wherein said piezo actuator contains a first end and a second end positioned opposite to each other, wherein said first end is attached to said template and said second end is in contact with said substrate, wherein enlarging said piezo actuator causes said template to be pushed away from said substrate.

82. (New) The method as recited in claim 81 wherein said second end is treated with a low surface energy layer.

83. (New) A method of separating a template from a substrate, with a first distance and a second distance defined therebetween, wherein said first distance is defined opposite to said second distance, said method comprising:

increasing a first spacing between said substrate and said template so that a rate of change of said first distance is at a higher rate than a rate of change of said second distance; and

increasing a second spacing between said substrate and said template so that a rate of change of said first distance and said second distance are substantially uniform.

84. (New) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein said increasing said first distance is achieved by applying a force to said template to cause a wedge between said template and said substrate at one end of a template-

substrate interface, wherein said template is to be tilted with respect to said substrate and said substrate remains stationary.

85. (New) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein said increasing said first distance is achieved by applying a force to said template to cause a wedge between said template and said substrate at one end of said template-substrate interface, wherein said substrate is to be tilted with respect to said template and said template remains stationary.

86. (New) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein said increasing said second distance is achieved by applying a force to said template to cause said template to be substantially separated from said substrate.

87. (New) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein said increasing said second distance is achieved by applying a force to said template, wherein said force is applied by a flexure system.

88. (New) The method as recited in claim 83 wherein said increasing said second distance is achieved by applying a force to said template, wherein said force is applied by a piezo actuator, wherein said piezo actuator contains a first end and a second end positioned opposite to each other, wherein said first end is attached to said template and said second end is in contact with said substrate, wherein enlarging said piezo actuator causes said template to be pushed away from said substrate.

89. (New) The method as recited in claim 88 wherein said second end is treated with a low surface energy layer.

90. (New) A method of separating a template extending in a first plane from an imprinting layer extending in a second plane, said method comprising:

forming an oblique angle between said first plane and said second plane to cause a wedge between said template and said imprinting layer at one end of a template-imprinting layer interface; and

increasing a distance between said template and said imprinting layer so that said template is spaced-apart from said imprinting layer.

91. (New) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein said angle is achieved by applying a force to said template to cause said template to be tilted with respect to said imprinting layer, wherein said imprinting layer remains stationary.

92. (New) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein said angle is achieved by applying a force to said imprinting layer to cause said imprinting layer to be tilted with respect to said template, wherein said template remains stationary.

93. (New) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein said increasing said distance is achieved by applying a force to said template, wherein said force is applied by a flexure system.

94. (New) The method as recited in claim 90 wherein said increasing said distance is achieved by applying a force to said template, wherein said force is applied by a piezo actuator, wherein said piezo actuator contains a first end and a second end positioned opposite to each other, wherein said first end is attached to said template and said second end is in contact with said imprinting layer, wherein enlarging said piezo actuator causes said template to be pushed away from said imprinting layer.

95. (New) The method as recited in claim 94 wherein said second end is treated with a low surface energy layer.

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